

## FRANK S. BLACK'S SPEECH,

### Nominating Roosevelt at Republican Convention.

#### Not a Stranger Waiting in the Shade to be Called Into Public Life.

Mr. President and gentlemen of the Convention: We are here to inaugurate a campaign which seems already to be nearly closed. So wisely have the people sowed and watched and tended, there seems little now to do but to measure up the grain. They are ranging themselves not for battle but for harvest. In one column reaching from the Maine woods to the Puget Sound are those people and those States which have stood so long together that when great emergencies arise the nation turns instinctively towards them. In this column, vast and solid, is a majority so overwhelming that the scattered squads in opposition can hardly raise another army. The enemy have neither guns nor ammunition, and if they had they would use them on each other. Destitute of the weapons of effective warfare, the only evidence of approaching battle is the tone and number of their bulletins. There is discord among the Generals: discord among the soldiers. Each would fight in his own way, but before assaulting his Republican adversaries he would first destroy his own comrades in the adjoining tents. Each believes the weapons chosen by the other are not only wicked, but fatal to the holder. That is true. This is the only war of modern times where the boomerang has been substituted for the gun. Whatever fatalities may occur, however, among the discordant hosts now moving on St. Louis, no harm will come this fall to the American people. There will be no opposition sufficient to raise a conflict. There will be hardly enough for competition. There are no Democratic plans for the conduct of the fall campaign. Their zeal is chiefly centered in discussion as to what Thomas Jefferson would do if he were living, and but few of his descendants are among the Democrat Remnants of to-day. Whatever of patriotism or wisdom emanated from that distinguished man is now represented in this convention.

It is a sad day for any party when its only means of solving living issues is by guessing at the possible attitude of a statesman who is dead. This condition leaves that party always a beginner and makes every question new. The Democratic party has seldom tried a problem on its own account, and when it has, its blunders have been its only monuments, its courage is remembered only with regret. As long as these things are recalled that party may serve as ballast, but it will never steer the ship.

THE DEMOCRATIC MOTTO, "FORGET." When all the people have forgotten will dawn a golden era for this new Democracy. But the country is not ready yet to place a party in the lead whose most expressive motto is the cheerless word "forget." That motto may express contrition, but it does not inspire hope. Neither confidence nor enthusiasm will ever be aroused by any party which enters each campaign uttering the language of the mourner.

There is one fundamental plank, however, on which the two great parties are in full agreement. Both believe in the equality of men. The difference is that the Democratic party would make every man as low as the poorest, while the Republican party would make every man as high as the best. But the Democratic course will provoke no outside interference now, for the Republican motto is that of the great commander, "never interrupt the enemy while he is making a mistake."

In politics, as in other fields, the most impressive arguments spring from contrast. Never has there been a more striking example of unity than is now afforded by this assemblage. You are gathered here not as factions torn by discordant views, but moved by one desire and intent; you have come as the chosen representatives of the most enlightened party of the world. You meet not as strangers, for no men are strangers who hold the same cause. You may separate two bodies of water for a thousand years, but when once the barrier is removed they mingle instantly and are one. The same traditions inspire and the meas-

purpose actuate us all. Never in our lives did these people stand with deeper root than now. At least two generations have passed away since the origin of that great movement from which sprang the spirit which has been the leading impulse in American politics for half a century. In that movement, which was both a creation and example, were those great characters which endowed the Republican party at its birth with the attributes of justice, equality and progress, which have held it to this hour in line with the highest sentiment of mankind. From these men we have inherited the desire, and to their memory we owe the resolution, that those great schemes of government and humanity, inspired by their patriotism and established by their blood, shall remain as the fixed and permanent emblem of their labors, and the abiding signal of the liberty and progress of the race.

#### REPUBLICANS NEVER FAIL IN CRISES.

There are many new names in these days, but the Republican party needs no new title. It stands now where it stood at the beginning. Memory alone is needed to tell the source from which the inspiration of the country flow. A drowsy memory would be as guilty now as a sleeping watchman when the enemy is astray. The name of the Republican party stands over every door where a righteous cause was born. Its members have gathered around ever movement, no matter how weak, if inspired by high resolve. Its flag for more than fifty years has been the sign of hope on every spot where liberty was the word. The party needs no new name or platform to designate its purpose. It is now, as it has been equipped, militant and in motion. The problems of every age that age must solve. Great causes impose great demands, but never in any enterprise have the American people failed, and never in any crisis has the Republican party failed to express the conscience and intelligence of that people.

The Republican mind is awake both as to its opportunities and its dangers. Nowhere in the world, in any era, did citizenship mean more than it means to-day in America. Men of courage and steady character are ranging themselves together with a unanimity seldom seen. There is no excuse for groping in the dark, for the light is plain to him who will but raise his eyes. The American people believe in a man or party that has convictions and knows why. They believe that what experience has proved it is idle to resist. A wise man is any fool about to die. But there is a wisdom which, with good fortune, may guide the living and strong. That wisdom springs from reason, observation and experience. Guided by these, this thing is plain, and the young men may rely upon it that the history and purposes I have described, rising even to the essence and aspirations of patriotism find their best concrete example in the career and doctrines of the Republican party.

But not alone upon the principles

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### Thin Hair

of that party are its members in accord. With the same devotion which has marked their adherence to these principles, magnificent and enduring as they are, they have already singled out the man to bear their standard and to lead the way. No higher badge was ever yet conferred. But great as the honor is, the circumstances which surround it make the honor even more profound. You have come from every State and Territory in this vast domain. The country and the town have vied with each other in sending here their contributions to this splendid throng. Every highway in the land is leading here, and crowded with the members of that great party which sees in this splendid city the symbol of its rise and power. With this unexampled multitude is every rank and condition of free men, every creed and occupation. But to-day a common purpose and desire have engaged us all, and from every nook and corner of the country rises but a single choice to fill the most exalted office in the world.

#### ROOSEVELT IN PEACE AND WAR.

He is no stranger waiting in the shade to be called suddenly into public light. The American people have seen him for many years, and always where the light was thickest and the greatest need was felt. He has been alike conspicuous in the pursuits of peace and in the arduous stress of war. No man now living will forget the spring of '98, when the American mind was so inflamed and patriotism so aroused: when among all the eager citizens surging to the front as soldiers, the man whom this convention has already in its heart, was among the first to hear the call and answer to his name. Preferring peace, but not afraid of war; faithful to every private obligation, yet first to volunteer at the sign of national peril; a leader in civil life, and yet so quick to comprehend the arts of war that he grew almost in a day to meet the high exactions of command. There is nothing which so tests a man as great and unexpected danger. He may pass his life among ordinary scenes, and what he is or does but few will ever know. But when the crash comes or the flames break out, a moment's time will single out the hero in the crowd. A flash of lightning in the night will reveal what years of daylight have not discovered to the eye. And so the flash of the Spanish war revealed the lofty courage and devotion which the American heart so loves, and which you have met again to decorate and recognize. His qualities do not need to be retold, for no man in that exalted place since Lincoln has been better known in every household in the land. He is not conservative, if conservatism means waiting until it is too late. He is not wise, if wisdom is to count a thing a hundred times when once will do. There is no regret so keen in man or country as that which follows an opportunity unembraced. Fortune soars with high and rapid wing, and whoever brings it down must shoot with accuracy and speed. Only the man with steady nerve and courage to pull the trigger brings the largest opportunities to the ground. He does not always listen while all the sages speak, but every day at nightfall beholds some record which, if not complete, has been at least pursued with conscience and intrepid resolution.

#### ONE MAN ONLY—ROOSEVELT.

He is no slender flower swaying in the wind but the heroic fiber which is best natured by the mountains and the snow. He spends little time in review, for that, he knows can be

done by the schools. A statesman grappling with the living problems of the hour, he gropes but little in the past. He believes that in shaping the destination of this great Republic, hope is a brighter impulse than regret. He believes that preparation for future triumphs is a more important duty than an inventory of past mistakes. A profound student of history, he is to-day the greatest history maker in the world. With the instincts of a scholar, he is yet forced from the scholar's pursuits by those superb qualities which fit him to the last degree for those great world currents now rushing past with larger volume and more potent aspects than for many years before. The fate of nations is still decided by their wars. You may talk of orderly tribunals and learned referees; you may strike from your books the last note of every martial anthem and yet out in the smoke and thunder men may prophesy and women pray, but peace will come here to abide forever on this earth only when the dreams of childhood are the accepted charts to guide the destinies of men. Events are numberless and mighty, and no man can tell which wire runs around the world. The nation basking today in the quiet of contentment and repose may still be on the deadly circuit and to-morrow writhing in the toils of war.

This is the time when great figures must be kept in front. If the pressure is great, the material to resist it must be granite and iron. Whether we wish it or not, America is abroad in this world. Her interests are in every street, her name is on every tongue. Those interests, so sacred and stupendous, should be trusted only to the care of those whose power, skill and courage have been tested and approved. And in the man whom you will choose the highest sense of every nation in the world beholds a man who typifies as no other living American does the spirit and the purposes of the twentieth century. He does not claim to be the Solomon of his time. There are many things he may not know, but

this is sure, that above all things else he stands for progress, courage and fair play, which are the synonyms of the great American name.

There are times when great fitness is hardly less than destiny, when the elements so come together that they select the agent they will use. Events sometimes select the strongest man, as lightning goes down the highest rod. And so it is with those events which for many months with unerring sight have led you to a single name which I am chosen only to pronounce. Gentlemen, I nominate for President of the United States the highest living type of the youth, the vigor and the promise of a great country and a great age, Theodore Roosevelt, of New York.

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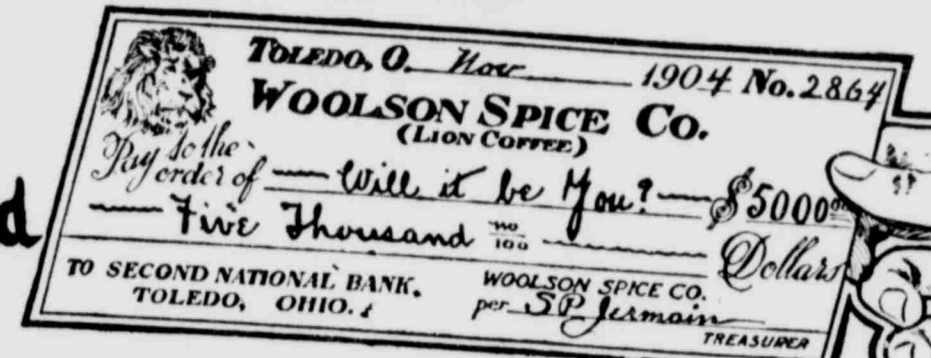
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